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Introduction

The Torrey Botanical Club is the oldest botanical society in America, and ever since its founding, its members have been active in all botanical movements, such as the discussions of rules of nomenclature, the establishment of the Botanical Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and of other botanical organizations; and at the Semicentennial Celebration of the Club in 1917, preliminary discussions were held which have since led to the establishment of "Botanical Abstracts," now "Biological Abstracts." With this record of botanical achievement it seemed fitting that a Seventy-fifth Anniversary Celebration should be held. In the fall of 1941 Dr. J. S. Karling, then President of the Club, appointed a large committee to discuss the possibilities of such a celebration. It was decided to hold the celebration in New York in June 1942, independently of meetings of the American Association of the Advancement of Science and of other botanical societies. However, all botanists were invited to participate. It was also decided to hold four sessions, at which papers would be presented, in four different local institutions; to leave the afternoons free for recreation and inspection of these institutions; and to provide some evening entertainment and a field trip. Smaller committees were appointed to work out the details of securing speakers, and of arranging for the accommodation of visitors and delegates. As events worked out, the summer scientific meetings at Ann Arbor, Michigan, were canceled and the Botanical Society of America joined in the celebration of the Club in lieu of a separate summer meeting in the East.

Registration began Monday morning, June 22, 1942, at Columbia University. At 2:00 p.m. the first session was called to order by Dr. E. B. Matzke. Dr. Karling gave an interesting review of the development of the Department of Botany at Columbia from the early days before the University occupied its present site, and told of the establishment of the Elgin Botanical Garden as an aid to the teaching of botany. Then followed the papers by Drs. F. T. Lewis, C. E. Allen, R. H. Wetmore, and E. W. Sinnott. These are presented here, although the papers of Dr. Lewis and Dr. Sinnott are in somewhat abbreviated form.

After the formal program the visitors resorted to the Low Memorial Library for tea, and to examine a display of books and reports by John Torrey, and photographs of former botanists at Columbia and of others associated with the Torrey Botanical Club in earlier days. In the evening the anniversary

banquet at the Men's Faculty Club was well attended and proved to be an enjoyable occasion with Dr. C. Stuart Gager, President of the Club, presiding. Excerpts were read from many letters of felicitation from various organizations and from individual botanists who could not come.

On Tuesday morning the meeting was held at the New York Botanical Garden with Dr. William J. Robbins presiding. Dr. Robbins first gave a very interesting account of the history of the Botanical Garden, illustrated with a number of slides showing the activities of the Torrey Botanical Club in the establishment of the Garden, and in the erection of the museum building and greenhouses. Following this talk four papers on different aspects of taxonomy were given by Drs. H. A. Gleason, H. K. Svenson, E. D. Merrill, and F. D. Kern. These make up the last half of this number of *TORREYA*. At the end of the program the accompanying picture of the group was taken on the steps of the museum building. The weather still seemed too threatening for lunch to be served out-of-doors, and arrangements were made for it on the main floor of the museum building. Fortunately, however, it cleared sufficiently for the inspection of the gardens in the afternoon.

On Wednesday, June 24th, the program was continued at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research. Here Dr. P. W. Zimmerman presided and Dr. William Crocker told of the establishment and growth of the Institute during the past twenty years. Three papers on growth problems were presented by Drs. L. O. Kunkel, P. W. Zimmerman, and O. Riddle. Following the program the Institute served a very nice luncheon; and then dividing the visitors into small groups, the staff of the Institute conducted everyone through the building and greenhouses on exceedingly well organized tours with a minimum of congestion or confusion. As reference was made in the last paragraph to threatening weather, and rain will be mentioned again toward the end of the volume, it is perhaps excusable to state that this was a perfect June day, and the rose arbor at the Institute was at its height of bloom.

In the evening Dr. William J. Robbins gave a lecture on vitamins at the American Museum of Natural History.

On Thursday the group met at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Dr. C. Stuart Gager presided and told of building the Botanic Garden, which has many phases of activity, is composed of a number of diverse unit gardens, and serves the public in many ways, on an originally unattractive piece of waste land. Four papers were given in the formal program by Drs. G. H. Shull, S. A. Cain, G. M. Reed, and A. F. Blakeslee. Luncheon was served in the Brooklyn Museum, and this was followed by an inspection of the gardens.

The papers presented on Wednesday and Thursday, and an account of the field trip of Friday and Saturday, will be published in the second number of *TORREYA*.

H. H. C.